

U.S. Reviews 'Segregationist' Appointee

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The appointment of a Bethesda woman to a choice State Department position has been held up indefinitely following a published report that she demonstrated in favor of George Wallace during his 1964 presidential bid in Maryland.

Mrs. Peter Cameron of 6625 River Rd. was sworn in last Tuesday as a special projects officer under the deputy under secretary for administration. The \$19,000-per-year job involves travel to U.S. embassies abroad to advise on furnishings and decorations. It was formerly held by Nancy Kefauver, the widow of Sen. Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn.).

After the swearing-in, how-



BETTY CAMERON
... appointment held up

ever, White House aides reportedly learned that Mrs. Cameron had staged a count-

er-demonstration against anti-Wallace pickets during a May, 1964, rally at a Rockville high school.

She was informed late last week that her appointment had been suspended pending a "rather routine pre-employment processing that was not completed before she was sworn in, through an administrative error," according to a State Department spokesman.

He stressed that the processing in no way involved a security problem. "She has had a full field security check," he said, "and she was cleared."

Reached at her home yesterday, Mrs. Cameron had no comments except to acknowledge that she had been notified of the suspension of the appointment.

"Only one side of this is

being presented," she said, "but I don't feel that I am in a position to comment now."

The 52-year-old Arkansas native is a past two-term president of the Rock Creek Republican Women's Club and was an organizer of Marylanders for Rockefeller in 1959, one of the first such state organizations to be formed.

She said at that time, "I have a firm conviction that this is the right thing to do. I think Vice President Nixon is a sweet, wonderful man, and he's well trained for the presidency, but I'm convinced he can't win."

She announced her support in 1966 of Mr. Nixon's quest for the presidency last year.

There is no indication that the President had any first-hand knowledge of her appointment to the State Department job. The Western White House had no comment yesterday.

The current allegations concerning Mrs. Cameron were made in a syndicated column distributed for publication yesterday by the Knight Newspapers. Writers Vera Glaser and Malvina Stephenson described Mrs. Cameron as a "segregationist" who once criticized Vice President Agnew or being liberal.

She is also a past president of the National Speech Clinic Foundation, Inc., and, according to official records on file in Annapolis, was a paid lobbyist for the Montgomery County Hotel and Restaurant Association, representing it on county liquor legislation before the 1963 General Assembly.